

2 Quol, 134
24 November, 1977

The International Teaching Centre,
The World Centre.

Dearly loved friends;

Re: New Era College
Panchgani, India

I have great honour to report on a discussion with Dr. Ray Johnson, the Principal, The New Era School later in October on the future development of this Baha'i institution.

Quite sometimes back, we had encouraged Dr. Johnson to study the feasibility of future expansion of this institution with a view to establishing vocational college for training technicians. We have had fruitful dialogue with Dr. Johnson on several occasions and I was thoroughly glad to see that he has now additional assistance to help him in formation of the new venture.

The formation of a college of this nature necessitates additional investment that the School lacks at present. I reviewed with him various ways and means of providing capital and concluded that the easiest way to establish a vocational college in New Era is to raise a capital investment. But at present with the All-India Mashriq'ul Adkar in view and the immense investment this venture would require, it would be hard to provide the necessary capital for the establishment of the vocational college which entails tremendous investment in machinery, tools etc. Thus, the New Era should be self-sufficient in a manner to spare funds for the vocational college. In reviewing the various outlets, we agreed that the establishment of an Art College where a B.A. degree could be issued does not incur heavy investment. At present, the School is in a position to provide tuition for Ordinary and Advanced Level in a number of subjects such as English, Economics, Commerce, History, Geography, Arabic, Persian, Statistics and Accountancy. Dr. R. Johnson was of the opinion that it would be easy for him to cater tuition for these subjects as well as Baha'i studies, Comparative Religions, Psychology and Money & Banking. It would however be necessary for him to link the School with a reputed University abroad, probably in the United States or Canada, to secure tuition and screening help in his teaching corps.

If this College of Arts is established, a good number of students

from Persia, from Arabias and from african countries would be able to pursue their studies in this Baha'i institution. These students in paying normal fees would be able to amply cover the running cost of the college and cater for additional capital fund to be established for the formation of the vocational college. At present, a good number of Baha'i students, from Iran and Arabias, are compelled to go to Europe and America because college facilities in these territories, namely Iran and Arabias, are not sufficient to accept them. When they pursue their studies in Europe and America, they naturally face the secular environment and lose that lovely spiritual atmosphere they could get in Panchgani which is indeed commendatory.

I promised Dr. R. Johnson every possible help we can give him in the Arabian countries and I beg you to please recommend the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States to accord him their graceful help, assistance and support in his noble efforts to find an educational institution in the United States to link with the New Era to make it possible for him to issue a B.A. degree. If the college of Arts is established, it would be easy to provide for the course of The Baha'i Studies, the Comparative Religions studies we so eagerly look forward to have realized. Thus the road would be paved for the formation of the Baha'i University envisaged by our Beloved Guardian.

With deepest love and in His service,

Dr. M. Salmanpour

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